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09/739,856	12/18/2000	Jason M. Allor	205728	4196

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EXAMINER

CHUONG, TRUC T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2179

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2004

10

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/739,856

Applicant(s)

ALLOR ET AL.

Examiner

Truc T Chuong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 and 27-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15, and 27-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to Amendment B, filed 03/15/04.
2. Claims 1-15 and 27-29 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 10 are independent claims. In Amendment B, claims 1 and 10 are amended, claims 16-26 are cancelled, and claims 27-29 are new claims. This action is made non-final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-15, 27, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Weinberg et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,962).

As to claim 1, Weinberg teaches a computer-implemented method for making resources available, the method comprising:

presenting a hierarchy comprising a plurality of nodes (hierarchical tree, col. 2 lines 35-37, and figs. 2-5), the first hierarchy based, at least in part, on a first organization (grouping and access methods, col. 19 lines 56-64), wherein at least one of the nodes represents resources for performing tasks (col. 2 lines 12-14);

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presenting a link group associated with at least one of the nodes (children and parents nodes, col. 2 lines 37-48, and figs. 5-6) wherein the link group comprises one or more links through which to open files or execute programs to access the resources and accomplish at least one of the tasks (each node represents a respective content object such as: Java applets, mail messages, audio/video files, and applications, col. 8 lines 32-50, and launching an application, col. 10 lines 16-34); and

presenting a second hierarchy comprising a plurality of nodes, the second hierarchy based, at least in part, on a second organization, the second organization distinct from the first organization (figs. 13-15 show a search result with a parent node and its children from an infoseek web page are distinctly displayed from other web sites as mentioned in figs. 1-6 above, and col. 25 lines 58-65).

As to claim 2, Weinberg teaches a computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1 (software package "Astra" runs on a client computer, col. 7 lines 48-54).

As to claim 3, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the link group is extensible to allow a plurality of users to add links and thereby add to the available resources (add a dataset to the current URL, col. 25 lines 9).

As to claim 4, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising: organizing the resources into functional areas; representing each functional area by a node of the plurality; and, receiving a user selection of at least one of the nodes (Astra Graphical User Interface, col. 15 lines 40-67, col. 16 lines 1-39, and figs. 3-5, 19, 21), wherein the one or more links of the

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presented link group are usable to open files or execute programs to access resources of the functional area represented by the selected node (col. 8 lines 40-50, and fig. 14).

As to claim 5, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 4, wherein the presented link group comprises a link to a web site regarding the functional area represented by the selected node (col. 8 lines 40-50, and fig. 14).

As to claim 6, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 4, wherein the presented link group comprises a link to a document regarding the functional area (col. 8 lines 40-50).

As to claim 7, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 4, wherein the presented link group comprises a link to set up an email to a person responsible for the functional area (mail message, col. 8 lines 46-50).

As to claim 8, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 4, wherein the presented link group comprises a link to a software useful in performing work in the functional area (filter bar, col. 16 lines 21-39).

As to claim 9, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the hierarchy is a tree, wherein the node to which the link group is associated is a child node, and wherein at least one of the plurality of nodes is a parent of the child node (figs. 2, 5, and 6).

As to claim 10, Weinberg teaches a method for enabling a plurality of users to collaborate on a project, the method comprising:

presenting a first graphical hierarchy having a plurality of nodes, the first graphical hierarchy based, at least in part, on a first organization (grouping and access methods, col. 19 lines 56-64), each node representing one or more sub-projects into which the project is divided

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(the relationships between parent nodes and children nodes show as hierarchical data structure displays, col. 2 lines 27-48);

in response to user selection of a node of the plurality, presenting one or more links, wherein the links are selectable to open files or execute programs for use by one or more of the plurality of users to contribute to the one or more sub-projects represented by the selected node (see claim 1 and figs. 2, 5, and 6); and

presenting a second graphical hierarchy comprising a plurality of nodes, the second hierarchy based, at least in part, on a second organization, the second organization distinct from the first organization (figs. 13-15 show a search result with a parent node and its children from an inforseek web page are distinctly displayed from other web sites as mentioned in figs. 1-6 above, and col. 25 lines 58-65).

As to claim 11, it is individually similar in scope to claim 2 above; therefore, rejected under similar rationale.

As to claim 12, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 10, further comprising: displaying at least one representation of a task associated with a node of the plurality of nodes (figs. 14 and 19); displaying at least one representation of a computer that is to be used to work on the project (figs. 19 and 21), wherein the computer has a work queue (Link Doctor of fig. 22); and, in response to a user of the plurality moving the task representation to the computer representation, adding the represented task to the work queue of the represented computer (Edit, col. 31 lines 14-24, and fig. 22).

As to claim 13, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 10, further comprising: displaying at least one representation of a task associated with a node of the plurality of nodes (see claim 12

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above); displaying at least one representation of a user of the plurality of users (Weinberg shows plurality of users (Internet and World Wide Web, col. 5 lines 23-27, and col. 5 lines 57-65), wherein the represented user has a work queue; and, in response to a transfer of the task representation to the user representation, adding the represented task to the work queue of the represented user (see claim 12 above).

As to claim 14, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 10, wherein the graphical hierarchy is a tree, and is presented in a first pane of a user interface (col. 2 lines 35-37, and fig. 6), and wherein the links are presented in a second pane of the user interface (Pan Window, col. 17 lines 21-39, and fig. 5).

As to claim 15, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 12, wherein the graphical hierarchy is a tree, and is presented in a first pane of a user interface, the links are presented in a second pane of the user interface (see claim 14 above), and the work queue is represented in a third pane of the user interface (figs. 5 and 22).

As to claim 27, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the first organization is selected from the group consisting of: by resource category, by functional area, by project, and by task grouping (grouping and access methods, col. 19 lines 56-64).

As to claim 29, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 10, wherein at least one of the node represent a set of software tests (TABLE 2 shows how to generate a test script, col. 18 lines 13-35).

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weinberg et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,962).

As to claim 28, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the nodes (or content objects) represents mail messages, Java Applets, image files, and Applications; however, Weinberg does not clearly show that a node represent an employee. Examiner takes official notice that it is well known in the art, an employee (or user) of a Network System can be represented by an icon or node in order to have better communications among employees in a same Network System.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed in Amendment B have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argued the following:

- a. Weinberg does not disclose a first/second graphical hierarchy based, at least in part, on a first/second organization.
- b. Weinberg does not teach the first organization is selected from the group of consisting of: resource category, functional area, project and task grouping.

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c. Weinberg does not teach at least one of the nodes represents an employee.

The Examiner disagrees for the following reasons:

Per (a), Weinberg clearly disclose a hierarchy comprising a plurality of nodes (hierarchical tree, col. 2 lines 35-37, and figs. 2-5), the first hierarchy based, at least in part, on a first organization (grouping and access methods, col. 19 lines 56-64), wherein at least one of the nodes represents resources for performing tasks (col. 2 lines 12-14); presenting a link group associated with at least one of the nodes (children and parents nodes, col. 2 lines 37-48, and figs. 5-6) wherein the link group comprises one or more links through which to open files or execute programs to access the resources and accomplish at least one of the tasks (each node represents a respective content object such as: Java applets, mail messages, audio/video files, and applications, col. 8 lines 32-50, and launching an application, col. 10 lines 16-34); and presenting a second hierarchy comprising a plurality of nodes, the second hierarchy based, at least in part, on a second organization, the second organization distinct from the first organization (figs. 13-15 show a search result with a parent node and its children from an infoseek web page are distinctly displayed from other web sites as mentioned in figs. 1-6 above, and col. 25 lines 58-65).

Per (b), Weinberg teaches "grouping and access methods", col. 19 lines 56-64.

Per (c), Weinberg teaches at least one of the nodes (or content objects) represents mail messages, Java Applets, image files, and Applications; however, Weinberg does not clearly show that a node represent an employee. Examiner takes official notice that it is well known in the art, an employee (or user) of a Network System can be represented by an icon or node in order to have better communications among employees in a same Network System.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Truc T Chuong whose telephone number is 703-305-5753. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th and alternate Fridays 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L. Kincaid can be reached on 703-308-0640. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Truc T. Chuong

07/07/04

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